

CHAPTER
12
SECTION 1

READING COMPREHENSION

Congress Organizes

3

1. When does Congress convene?

2. Why are all members of the House considered representatives-elect on opening day?

3. Who presides during opening day in the House?

4. Describe the actions of each of the following on opening day:
 - a. the clerk of the House _____
 - b. the Speaker of the House _____
 - c. the Dean of the House _____
 - d. other members of the House _____
5. Why is the election of the Speaker and the other officers of the House only a formality?

6. What actions take place in the Senate on opening day? Why is opening day in the Senate fairly short and routine compared to the same day in the House?

7. What is the State of the Union message? To whom is it delivered?

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**Congress Organizes****3**

8. Complete the chart below to compare and contrast the presiding officers.

	Speaker of the House	President of the Senate
How chosen?		
Member of body?		
Duties and powers		
Able to debate?		
Able to vote?		

9. Which of the positions above is more powerful? _____
10. What is the role of the President *pro tempore*?

11. What is the purpose of the party caucuses?

12. Describe the role of each of the following positions:
- a. floor leader _____

- b. whips _____

- c. committee chairmen _____

13. What is the seniority rule?

